

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 32 are pending and stand rejected.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to state that the two or more layers of the article of the invention must be in “optical contact”. This amendment is supported by original disclosure in paragraph [0041] and [0042] on page 11, in which said optical contact is defined

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-14, 20-21, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer et al. (US 5,915,549). The layers of the Palmer reference are not in “optical contact” and therefore fail to present a *prima facie* case of anticipation over Applicant’s amended claims.

35 U.S.C §103(a)

Palmer

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Palmer et al. (US 5,915,549). The Palmer reference does not teach or suggest layers that are in “optical contact” and therefore fail to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Palmer in view of Church

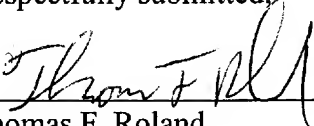
Claims 10-11, 15-19, 23-24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Palmer et al. (US 5,915,549). As discussed above, the Palmer reference does not teach or suggest layers that are in “optical contact” and therefore fail to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Church reference also fails to teach or suggest layers in optical conduct, thus fails to heal the deficiency of the Palmer reference.

Conclusion

The references cited, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of Applicant’s claim elements and claim limitations, as amended, and therefore fail to

present a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness over Applicant's claims. For the above reasons the present claims are believed by the Applicant to be novel and unobvious over the prior art, thus the claims herein should be allowable to the Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas F. Roland", is written over a horizontal line.

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